



Spirit and Sentiment: Affective Trajectories of Religious Being in Urban Africa

International Conference of the Research Network on Religion, AIDS and Social Transformation in Africa (RASTA)

Freie Universität Berlin, 28th-30th May 2015

Venue: Seminarzentrum, Freie Universität Berlin, Otto-von-Simon-Str. 26, 14195 Berlin (Dahlem); Rooms 115 & 116 (next to the cafeteria on the ground floor)

28th May

5:30 – 6:00 pm

Registration and Welcome by the Organizers

Hansjörg Dilger (Freie Universität Berlin); Astrid Bochow (Georg-August University Göttingen); Marian Burchardt (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity Göttingen); Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon (African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand)

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Keynote Lecture

Filip de Boeck (KU Leuven)

'Esprit de mort,' 'esprit de vie': Understanding the city as limit-experience. Cases from Kinshasa

29th May

9:30 am – 1:00 pm Plenary Session

Panel 1: Urban Subjectivities: Ideals, Transformations and Symbolic Resources (Chair: Marian Burchardt)

Nadine Beckmann (University of Roehampton): *The pains and pleasures of love: transformations of romance and sexual practice in Zanzibar*

Ezra Chitando (University of Zimbabwe): *“Ndiri Mwana Womuporofita” (I am a child of the Prophet): Sexual Minorities, HIV and Belonging in the United Family International Church, Harare, Zimbabwe*

Eileen Moyer (University of Amsterdam): *A Good Man in (urban) Africa: Shifting notions of responsible manhood in Nairobi and beyond*

Laura Stark (University of Jyväskylä): *Poverty, sex, and marriage: moral dilemmas facing Muslim youth and their parents in a Tanzanian slum*

1:00 – 2:30 pm Lunch Break (Self funded, Mensa)

2:30 – 5 pm Parallel Panels

Panel 2: Healing Bodies: Anxieties, Hopes and Affective Transformations (15 min break at 3:30) (Chair: Hansjörg Dilger)

Derrell Cox (University of Oklahoma): *Hope, Anxiety, and Death in Gaborone*

Eric A. Anchimbe (University of Bayreuth) and Chikas Danfulani (Department of Religion and Philosophy, University of Jos): *Jesus heals’: Affective religious discourses in HIV/AIDS counselling by Faith-based NGOs*

Isabelle Lange (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine): *From home to home: Weaving paths of recovery between the urban and rural*

Lorena Nuñez (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg): *Faith healing, migration and gendered conversions in Pentecostal churches in Johannesburg*

Panel 3: Transnational Spiritualities: Religion, Sentiment and Migration (Chair: Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon)

Alessandro Gusman (University of Turin): *“Here, is a place where I can cry”. Religion in a context of displacement: Congolese churches in Kampala*

Peter Kankonde Bukasa (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity): *The Business of Integrating: Pragmatism and Tactical Creolisation in Migrant Pentecostal Churches in Post-Apartheid South Africa*

Peter Lambertz (University of Leipzig): *Affective minorities: Spirits, soil and urban*

territorial 're-attachement' in a Congolese spiritual movement from Japan

Rafael Cazarin (University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU): *Learning how to feel: Spiritual knowledge and emotionally-based narratives of social transformation amongst Nigerian and Congolese Pastors in Diaspora*

5:15 to 6 pm

Plenary Discussion

30th May

9:00 – 10:30 am

Keynote Lecture

Rijk van Dijk (African Studies Centre, Leiden, University of Amsterdam & University of Konstanz):

Religious Sophistication: An Urban Spirit?

10:45 – 12:00 pm

Parallel Panels 4 & 5; (2 papers + 15 min discussion)

12:00 pm – 1.30 pm

Lunch Break (Self funded, Mensa)

1.30 pm – 2.45 pm

Parallel Panels 4 & 5 cont.; (2 papers + 15 min discussion)

Panel 4: Materiality, Performance, and Aesthetics in Urban Religious Life (Chair: Astrid Bochow)

Murtala Ibrahim (Freie Universität Berlin): *Preaching in God's City: NASFAT and Christ Embassy in Comparative Perspective*

Stephen A. Pierce (University of Wisconsin): *'Under Present Circumstances': Islamic Charity and Urban Vulnerability in early 20th Century Zanzibar*

Zoe Groves (University of Cambridge): *Exploring the Gule Wamkulu in Harare: Past and Present*

Natalia Zawiejska (Jagiellonian University): *Luanda, Religious Factory of Emotionality*

Panel 5: Embodying Emotional Belonging in the City (Chair: Nadine Beckmann)

Hanspeter Reihling (Center for Community Counseling and Engagement, San Diego State University): *Born Again Gangsters: Affective Transformations at the Margins of Cape Town*

Amy Patterson (Sewanee: The University of the South): *Evangelical Christianity, Affective Belonging and Citizenship Subjectivities in Copperbelt, Zambia*

Hanna Nieber (Freie Universität Berlin): *Everyday affective practices in urban Zanzibar: Drinking Kombe and urban negotiations of Swahili identities*

Benedikt Pontzen (Freie Universität Berlin): *“Those Who Pray Together.” On Religious Practice and Embodiment in Zongos in Asante, Ghana*

3:00 – 5.30 pm

Closing Panel

Panel 6: Affective Infrastructures – Religious and Socio-Political Spaces of the City (Chair: Alessandro Gusman)

Isabel Mukonyora (Western Kentucky University): *Affective Trajectories of Familial Religious Being among the Sick in Harare*

Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon (African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand): *The Affective City: Haunting and Cleansing in Post-Industrial Johannesburg*

Bettina Malcomess (University of the Witwatersrand): *Routes & Rites: Visualizing Religion in Johannesburg*

Astrid Bochow (Georg-August University Göttingen): *Christianity and the Syllabus – A Historio-ethnography of Educational Infrastructures in Botswana*

6:00 – 6.45 pm

Final Plenary Discussion

7:30 pm

Dinner (self-funded)

Location: Gorgonzola Club, Dresdener Str. 121, 10999 Berlin (near U “Kottbusser Tor”)